

## Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 NIC-01 /061 W

----- 028750

R 121055Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 353

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: RUMORS MOUNT AS KHAR RESIGNS FROM ASSEMBLY

REF: A. LAHORE 0218

B. LAHORE A-5, MARCH 9

1. MALIK GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR SUBMITTED RESIGNATION FROM PUNJAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MARCH 10. SPEAKERSICCEPTED IT SAME DAY. SINCE THEN, KHAR'S HOUSE IN LAHORE HAS BEEN BESIEGED BY FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS WHO APPARENTLY BELIEVE HE RESIGNED IN PREPARATION FOR IMMINENT APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR.

2. THAT BELIEF IS SHARED BY PRESS AND MOST OTHER OBSERVERS IN LAHORE IN LIGHT OF TWO RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO (IN LAHORE FEBRUARY 22 AND RAWALPINDI MARCH 10) THAT "ROTATION" WOULD TAKE PLACE IN PUNJAB HIERARCHY SOME TIME THIS MONTH. IN FACT, ON MARCH 10 BHUTTO WENT FURTHER THAN BEFORE IN SPECIFYING THAT ROTATION WOULD INCLUDE REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT GOVERNOR.

3. MOST PAPERS MARCH 11 INDICATED THEIR PRESUMPTION BY JUXTAPOSING ON FRONT PAGE MIE REPORTS OF BHUTTO'S PRESS  
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CONFERENCE STATEMENT AND KHAR'S RESIGNATION FROM PA.

AND PAKISTAN TIMES' INIMITABLE DAILY POLITICAL CARTOON  
"NANNA" MARCH 12 SHOWS EQUATION: "NEW GOVERNOR FOR PUNJAB  
SOON" PLUS "KHAR RESIGNS P.A. SEAT" EQUALS "?", AND BOY  
ASKING "YOU ANY GOOD AT 'RITHMATIC?"

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE STILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO APPRECIATE  
WHY BHUTTO WOULD RETURN KHAR TO GOVERNORSHIP OF THIS  
IMPORTANT PROVINCE AT THIS TIME, CONSIDERING THE BAD ODOR  
IN WHICH KHAR IS HELD BY SO MANY PUNJABIS, ALL WINDS NOW  
SEEM TO BE BLOWING IN THAT DIRECTION. (SEE REFERENCE AIRGRAM  
FOR LATEST FACTS AND DIALYSIS.) BHUTTO MAY WELL HAVE  
PERSUADED KHAR TO RESIGN FROM ASSEMBLY TO MAKE WAY FOR  
ELECTION OF OUTSIDER HE MAY WISH TO MAKE CHIEF MINISTER.  
SINCE NO ONE DOUBTS THAT A PUNJAB GOVERNMENT WITH KHAR AS  
GOVERNOR AND RAMAY AS CHIEF MINISTER WOULD BE DIFFICULT  
TO MANAGE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT RAMAY WOULD BE REPLACED  
IF KHAR IS MADE GOVERNOR.

5. ON OTHER HAND, UNLIKE MOST OBSERVERS IN LAHORE, WE  
WONDER IF SOMETHING DIFFERENT MIGHT BE IN THE WINEOM  
THOUGH KHAR IS STILL TELLING HIS FRIENDS HE WILL BECOME  
GOVERNOR BEFORE END OF MONTH, WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY  
OF HIS BEING MADE CENTRAL MINISTER OR BEING SENT ABROAD AS  
AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, NO RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT HAVE BEEN  
HEARD LATELY IN LAHORE.

6. THERE IS THIRD ALTERNATIVE WHICH WOULD BE QUITE IN  
CHARACTER FOR BHUTTO. THAT IS, KHAR MAY HAVE BEEN INDUCED  
TO RESIGN ON PROMISE OF BEINOOAPPOINTED GOVERNOR, WITH  
AQNOINTMENT PUT OFF INDEFINITELY. SUCH TACTICS HAVE BEEN  
USED BEFORE (E.G., CASES OF MERAJ KHALID, MUMTAZ BHUTTO,  
MUBASHIR HASAN AND KHAR HIMSELF) FOR EXPEDIE  
WY.

7. WE BELIEVE BHUTTO'S NEXT STEP IN THIS AFFAIR WILL BE  
IMPORTANT AS AN INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF DOMESTIC POLICY  
HE PLANS TO PURSUE. IF HE SHOULD KEEP KHAR WAITING, IT  
COULD INDICATE HE IS STILL UNCERTAIN AND IS CONTINUING GAME  
OF KEEPING ALL POLITICAL ELEMENTS OFF BATENCE. IF HE DOES  
APPOINT KHAR GOVERNOR, WE WOULD TAKE IT AS A SIGNAL THAT HE  
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HAS DEFINITELY SHIFTED TO THE RIGHT, PROBABLY BECOMING MORE  
AUTHORITARIAN AND DOWNGRADING LEFTISTS IN PPP AND POPULIST  
PARTY MANIFESTO.  
SPENGLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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